

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Wednesday 10th April 2019 at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall. Refreshments were served at 7pm prior to the meeting.

Present were Chairman Cllr P Lenehan, Cllrs G. Hawkins, L. Harris, D. Veale, T. Samson, A. Peters & the Clerk. Also present were 20 members of the public.

1. To Accept apologies for absence – apologies received from Don Higgs and Sybil Mealing

2. To confirm minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting- having been circulated the Minutes were proposed for approval by Pam Weston; seconded by Liz Hoare.

3. Guest Speaker Shelley Tobin- costumes curator at Killerton Park.

Shelley spoke about the fashion collection, which was started by Paulise de Bush in the mid-20th century, found a home with the National Trust at Killerton in 1978 and now consists of over 20,000 pieces. The collection contains many pieces from the 18th and 19th centuries, with the earliest piece, a man's sleeved waistcoat, dating from 1690. In addition to the many items of clothing, there are numerous pairs of shoes and impressive examples of jewellery, fans, handbags and other accessories. The fashion team display a selection of the collection and showcase approximately 80-100 items with each exhibition. She also brought along a selection of fabric samples. The Chairman thanked her for the talk.

4. Chairman's Report – as read by Cllr Lenehan It seems like only yesterday that I gave my first report as Chairman in 2016, reflecting upon our first year of service. And yet here we are, four years later, at the end of our term of office. With the elections on 2 May, we as a Parish Council are in a state of Purdah. This means there are certain restrictions on what we can say or do, particularly about any plans we may have for the future. It does, however, allow me to recognise the changes within the Parish Council over the last 12 months. We advertised a vacancy because Cllr Tom Samson was planning to move away from the village and he very considerately gave us advance notice of his impending resignation. Dave Veale responded to the advert; however, the sale of Tom's property fell through and his plans to leave the village were cancelled. This placed us in a predicament because we were already at our maximum allowable number of seven Councillors. Cllr Sybil Mealing graciously came to the rescue. Having already decided that she did not wish to stand for a second term, she gave her resignation early, which allowed us to co-opt Dave as a member of the PC in February. I would like to thank Cllr Mealing for her endeavours and support whilst she was with us, particularly for the splendid work she did as part of our team in organising the Royal Garden Party in the grounds of Talaton House to commemorate the Queen's 90th Birthday. Sybil was also our representative on the Hall Committee and as such, gave a huge amount of time in support of their events and activities. Cllr Higgs has decided not to stand for re-election in May due to his work commitments. He attended his last PC meeting last week. My thanks to Don for his invaluable expertise in matters of planning but also for his sterling efforts in working alongside the Talaton Broadband Committee who successfully brought superfast broadband to Talaton. Don made a significant contribution during his time on the PC and I am very grateful to him. In February last year we welcomed Andrew Peters onto the PC who replaced Cllr John Clarke who had resigned following an accidental injury. I am sorry to say that John passed away last month. Our deepest sympathy to Geraldine and family; we remember John with great fondness, and we shall always be grateful for his renovation of the telephone box. I am delighted to say that there is no change as far as our Clerk is concerned; we would be lost with Denise! And finally, the telephone box has been given a new lease of life. It now houses the village Emergency Box.

5. To receive reports from representatives of the following Village and Local organisations-

e. Parochial Church Council read out by the Revd. Chris Martin

The church building continues to be in very good order and is well cared for. It is open every day to provide quiet space for anyone who wants it. In 2018, the vestry was redecorated; an alarm was fitted to the roof to protect the leadwork, and the bells were serviced. The churchyard grass is now cut by a paid team and continues to look magnificent. A program of grave levelling in a small section of the churchyard is planned after Easter to make mowing easier. In 2019, work has been undertaken on the clock and a new sound system has just been installed. We also hope that Voneus will soon be fixing their equipment to the church tower in the hope of speeding up internet access for villagers.

The church continues to have a service every Sunday, which not every rural village can boast, and the church often swells at other occasions like Remembrance Sunday, Harvest, Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals and the ever-popular Christmas Eve Crib Service. The church also seeks to be a blessing to the community through the Parent & Toddler group, Lent lunches, Open Gardens, the Harvest lunch and the summer BBQ. We are so grateful to all those who support these events and help out.

As is the case for many rural churches, the number of members, volunteers and paid clergy are shrinking. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is recognising that, if things stay as they are, there is unlikely to be a worshipping community in Talaton in 10 to 20 years' time, which therefore jeopardises the viability of keeping the church open for Sunday worship, for marking life's milestones and organising some of the events referred to above.

So, in 2018, with the help of the Diocese of Exeter's 'Growing the Rural Church Project Team', the PCC began a consultation process designed to open up a conversation with villagers about the role the church and its building plays within the community. A questionnaire was sent to every household in the village and a public meeting was held to discuss the responses.

There wasn't a massive response in terms of the numbers of returned questionnaires or attendees at the meeting. The Church might have to face the unpalatable truth that it just isn't a big thing for people these days. Locally however, we want to keep the conversation going; we are trying to improve our communication with the wider village and hope to try some new things in the future. The church belongs to the village and the PCC will continue to seek ways of helping the wider village take ownership of it, so that future generations can benefit from it.

b. Payhembury School- no report

c. Talaton Parish Hall Managers Committee – as read by Simon Spencer

The committee make up remains as last year with 11 members, 3 Officers, reps of village organisations and co-opted members. I took over the Secretarial ship at the AGM from Chris Jervis, who you saw last year, this being my third time of occupancy of this position. Since our report last year, we have had yet another busy year with many events that have been well supported and enjoyed by villagers locally and further outside.

We have a program to relocate the Panto photos into proper display panels to be located in the committee room, and thus to redecorate and refit the Hall foyer

We have had boiler difficulties this year and we will have a contingency fund for a replacement boiler, when the next breakdowns occur after this one has been cured.

When this occurs, we will be upgrading the boiler room floor, walls and ceilings as we have done in the committee room.

Our usual events and regular bookings keep us reasonably financially stable, and we hold around £12k in the bank.

The How do ye do, the Revue, and the many events staged through Villages in Action and now Cove to Carne, have provided much entertainment for all. A lot of work goes into these events behind the scenes, and our thanks go to all those who help and contribute. We continue with new events for the next year, and hope to have more events planned for this year. We now have a very exciting addition of the Community Theatre4all which Tom will/has told us all about in his report. This is a very welcome addition and produces many bookings and full houses at very good performances particularly the last one.

The cooker replacement has been a bit of a long haul, but we are near to finalising this and there will be a new one installed shortly. This will be very welcome to those who provide hot food for events.

Added to this after a very long period of consideration, we now have a hot water boiler fitted to replace the old Burcos and kettles we have used for so many years.

The proposed Hall extension was publicised last year in The Calendar. It is very much a long-term project that we hope will happen, but it is dependent on Grant monies providing the bulk of the finance needed, which we are seeking. So, this is very much a watch this space event presently. When we have news, we will advise through The Calendar. We all continue to keep and manage the Hall for the Village. We are always open to suggestions from the Village and indeed would welcome more volunteers to help organise and run events. We all have busy lives and "many hands make light work."

As a Post Script I am not sure if The Talaton Calendar has ever featured in a Parish Meeting Report, so I will add this in. We are presently financially keeping the Calendar going through the advertising revenue we have and new advertisers coming in. We are very grateful for the various donations we receive from Village Organisations, which help the present stability. We outsource the printing of the booklet, which is why you receive such a good quality product, but the costs cannot be controlled by us, so occasionally revenue has to be increased by altering the advertising costs.

Our previous printing process was unsustainable as Arnie was totally overworked and imposed upon to achieve what we then delivered to Larkbeare Services for binding. Rosemary continues to deliver rain or shine, and the whole village should be grateful to her. If and when she decides to retire, we will be needing a new distribution method. I really hope each delivered booklet is read, as it takes a lot of work and coordination to produce them.

d. Talaton Village Shop as read by Trish Lenehan –

Our Chairman, Lady Anne Boles has been a driving force in our war against plastic. We have replaced plastic with paper wherever we can, and we continue to seek and make improvements.

In March last year the village was cut off by snow and residents relied upon the shop as never before resulting in record takings. I am delighted to say that the shop rose to the challenge and always maintained a supply of fresh local produce and never ran out of anything apart from milk but even then, we replenished our stocks days before the

major supermarkets did. In July we extended our opening hours to include Wed afternoon. We also started a pilot programme of late-night opening on a Thursday until 8pm. Both initiatives relied upon a recruitment campaign for new volunteers which proved to be enormously successful. The late-night opening will be re-introduced for Summer months only.

Throughout the year the shop has supported or participated in many village events such as: - Christmas in Talaton – joining with the Church & Pub; Open Gardens; Village Day

The overriding event of the year was our 25th Anniversary celebration in February when we hosted lunch for 120 members in the Talaton Inn following a ceremony outside the shop where local dignitaries unveiled a seat bearing a commemorative plaque. It was a splendid social occasion and the fantastic feedback we received about it reinforced to the committee just how important the shop is to the village. We are very grateful for the continued support of our volunteers, members and customers. Here's to the next 25 years!

a.Feniton School as read by Linda Harris –

Feniton C of E Primary School has had another successful academic year despite continuing to battle financial challenges. All the staff, children, parents and governors are extremely proud of the academic performance of the pupils. The SATs indicate that the children are achieving results that are above the national indicators and year on year continue to improve. It should be noted that the school teaches an enriched curriculum with the staff making a great effort to blend topics so that the children move towards levels of subject mastery.

In recent months the Otter Valley Federation, which combines the management of Feniton Primary school and Tipton St John Primary school, has benefitted from the two schools sharing expertise and initiatives. Tipton has taken the lead in raising student's awareness in respect of financial acuity and Feniton has adopted a Civic Award scheme that will encourage pupils to interact with their community.

Recent discussions with interested parties has encouraged the governors to conclude that Tipton St John school will move to a new site within the coming 2 / 3 years. The new school will be designed to accommodate over 200 students in purpose-built buildings.

A number of the councillors will know that Feniton School was recently inspected by SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). This inspection is not unlike the better-known OFSTED but aims to assess the degree to which a faith school adheres to Christian teaching and expresses Christian values. This values system tends to influence the caring culture of the school and the developmental needs of the children. We are all pleased to report that the school was deemed to be Excellent.

As in previous years, it should be stressed that Feniton Primary School is effective and efficient in providing an exemplary level of education and learning experience within a community that is both aware and supportive. With this thought in mind, it is hoped that local authorities will continue to support the school and take positive steps to assist with future developments.

f. Produce Association as read by Pam Weston –

Once again, our small, but perfectly formed committee met 6 times. Our membership fee remains a staggering £2 for the whole family. Numbers remain stable, but we are always ready to welcome new members so that more villagers can enjoy the benefits of club concessions: - 50% off Dobie's seeds and 15% off plants and equipment.

We have had another good year with our very successful and popular stalls at Village Day and the How D'ye Do, thanks to everyone who contributed to them.

In June we visited Overbecks for our annual outing. Despite the 'Beast from the East', and then the drought, our Annual Show in August had a good number of entries. Thanks to Lesley, our show secretary, the work of the committee, but most of all to those who exhibited. In September we sadly had to cancel the talk on Travels around New Zealand in a Camper Van, due to poor ticket sales. In October, The Talaton Inn once again hosted our Pumpkin Competition for us. This was a truly lovely family evening. There were some amazingly beautiful carvings, the quality just gets better. It was good to see more children's entries. Maria and her Mum did us proud. Many thanks to them both

Our AGM Saw several changes, firstly it began with a short but excellent talk on Bees, by Chris Harwood. Secondly just as we settled down to the usual business of the meeting, Tony Griffin, our chairman of many years, announce his retirement! To be fair, he had waited until his house was actually, definitely sold before telling us, but that meant there were no public farewell speeches, though the committee did later thank him for all the work he had done for us over the years. Thank goodness Chris Harwood accepted nomination and was swiftly voted in. Rosie James also stepped down from the committee. We shall miss her hard work and her baking for the show refreshments and her legendary sausage rolls. Two resignations meant two spaces on the committee for fresh blood and new ideas and luckily for us Sarah Wood and Steve Spratt were willing to join us.

In the new year the committee agreed to change our name to the Talaton Garden and Produce Association. We hope that this encourages those who don't avidly grow veg to feel they are welcome. We intend to offer more activities and talks so watch this space. In the meantime, we will continue to publish monthly gardening tips from Jim Buttress on our website, in addition to those we publish in the Calendar.

Activities in the pipe line: The plant stall in the Church car park at the Open Gardens Weekend 25th and 26th May; This summer's outing is a visit to Saltram House, near Plymouth on Saturday 22nd June.; The Annual Produce Show on

Saturday August 3rd: A talk in September - speaker still to be confirmed. The Pumpkin Competition in late October; Happy gardening!

g .Talatan Clay Shoot Club as read by Martin Mitchell-

The Talaton Clay Shoot continues to thrive. During the last year we have recruited new members and our membership, as of today, stands at 25, its' highest ever. The Club is now in its' tenth year since it was reformed in 2009.

Clay shoots take place on the first Saturday of every month. Guests are most welcome. We have had some remarkable first time shooters this year. One young lady guest, I think she was 15, hit the first clay she had ever fired at. She went on immediately to hit most of the rest of the clays put up for her. A truly remarkable natural aptitude. A number of other first time shooters came as guests during the year, including an older lady, and were very quickly shooting with confidence. If you would like a go, all we ask is let Gordon Pring or me know that you are coming, which is necessary to comply with the terms of our insurance. You don't need a gun or have a shotgun certificate to have a try. One of us will lend a gun and provide rudimentary instruction, particularly on matters of safety.

We again held our annual competitions of "Top Gun" and our handicap event. Top gun was won by a new member, on his first appearance and the handicap event was won by our youngest junior member. The trophies, engraved glass tumblers, were presented at the shoot's annual dinner in the Talaton Inn. The meal was once again excellent and incredible value for money.

On a number of occasions, the shoot morning was enlivened by a BBQ, kindly prepared by Andrea and Melissa Down. A big thank you to them. I'd also like to thank David Wright, who has for many years allowed clay shooting on his field, completely free of charge.

h. R.O.B.O.T.S as read by Nemo Young –

After several lunch meetings The Club was officially formed and held its inaugural AGM at the end of October with a membership of approximately 20. The aims of the Club are to foster and encourage social interaction and events for retired and semi- retired men. We have had a walk to Otterton for lunch, a well lubricated visit to Ventons Cyder, lunches at Talaton Inn and a trip to Exeter Races. Our members (a bright and strapping bunch of athletes) excitedly anticipate contributing to Village activities.

i. Talaton Neighbourhood Watch as read by Andy May - Status of our scheme

Since July 2017 the scheme has been managed by Andy and Jan May. TNHW built upon the previous structure and are now one of very few nationally verified in this area. TNHW have an active dialogue with; Police Crime Commissioners office (OPCC); D&C Preventative and Communities Policing Inspector; Rural crime officer; D C Ottery rural policing team.

There has been no change in ward boundaries although Steve Spratt has replaced Graham Rooms for "Woodmans" ward. The TNHW page on the parish web site is constantly updated. During this period 13 events have been posted in the appeals section and new links have been added to cover legislation and reporting procedure in relation to dog issues and fraud advice. The Calendar is still used to publicise events, crime prevention advice and points of contact. TNHW offers direct contact with households and businesses by email, phone or in writing regarding appeals, notifications and crime prevention advice. TNHW aim to provide this enhanced free service to the widest possible audience within the parish.

Statistics - Figures provided here unless stated otherwise are for the period 01/04/2018 to 31/03/2019.

TNHW have dealt with 16 incidents of which 5 required notifications to the local policing team.

TNHW have joined the Devon and Cornwall police alert system. They have received and reviewed 151 separate notifications of which 9 have been passed on either to a select portion or all of those who have requested our enhanced service. Using the crime mapping service on www.police.uk it is possible to draw a boundary for our parish. This runs several months behind real time but for the whole of 2017 there were 20 crimes recorded and in 2018 it was also 20. The peak was in August each year with all the crimes in those months approximately mapped to the Escott Estate, 7 in 2017 and 6 in 2018.

Councillor advocate scheme- TNHW were approached in 2017 by the Parish Council in relation to a new role being created by the Police Crime Commissioner. TNHW attended the launch of the scheme at police HQ on the 6th of April 2018. The new role contained considerable overlap with those of TNHW and duplication of effort by the parish council was no efficient. The latest draft of the role and information directory for Councillor Advocates has now been sent to the Parish Council for them to use as a reference document. Since the initial launch TNHW have attended 3 further seminars at police HQ covering subjects such as online fraud, police finances, police drones and visit to the call handling centre. Whilst membership has brought access to the fraud team who gave a presentation to 68 villagers in February 2019 and a meeting with the newly appointed rural crime officer, the scheme has failed to strengthen communication with the local policing team. TNHW will review the value of continued membership of the scheme in June at its first anniversary.

j. Community Theatre 4 All as read by Tom Samson - The company's third year has proved to be yet another very successful year. Two projects have been undertaken. The first project, "An Evening of Comic Victorian Melodramas" involved a company of 17 performers and a Technical Crew who presented a mixed programme of four one act plays.

These were presented on two evenings in Talaton Parish Hall at the end of November, before then touring to five other venues over a further three-week period during the first three weeks of December. The logistics of touring these plays with full complement of costumes, props, settings, lighting and sound kept the whole company on their toes for the full run of seven performances. Over this project the company performed to a total audience of 275 people, earning much praise and critical acclaim in the process. The second project, which completed its performances at the end of last month, was a comedy, "The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townwomens' Guild Dramatic Society's production of Murder at Checkmate Manor". This was a highly complex piece of theatre to undertake, both in terms of the demands upon the performers but also in regard to the complexity of setting and technical effects. This production performed to three, completely sold-out evening performances and a well-attended matinee.

Community Theatre 4All would like to place on record, their thanks to Talaton Parish Council for the support given at last years 'Grant Giving Evening' in providing the funding required to purchase the Entec USB Pro Interface, without which the creation of a highly complex lighting and sound plot for the Farndale Murder at Checkmate Manor simply could not have been undertaken. This interface will continue to be a vital piece of equipment for future productions.

So, as Community Theatre 4All now moves into its fourth year, having firmly established itself as a theatre group producing a very varied, high quality, end product, plans are already well advanced for the groups next production, the musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat". Joseph will be a large cast production open to both children and adults. The Junior cast will be open to boys and girls who will be in school years 3 to 8 in September 2019. The senior cast will be open to adults and all those in school years 9 and above in September 2019. An Introductory Workshop aimed at potential senior cast members will be held in Talaton Parish Hall on Saturday 6th July between 10.30am and 3.30pm. The Junior cast introductory session will be held on Saturday 7th September in St Mary's Church Whimple between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. Performances of "Joseph" will be given in St Mary's Church in Whimple in early February 2020.

6. Open Forum – The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and thanked the Clerk for all that she does for the PC

The meeting closed at 9.20pm